

Recipient: Delaware House Education Committee

Letter: Greetings,

Pass House Bill 50 to Allow Parent Opt Out

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Jackie Kook	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-18	This bill is important for parents who feel bullied into silence as well as those who see their children suffer but feel they have no options.
Giffin Bowen	Seaford, DE	2015-04-18	I believe the Smarter Balanced Assessment is unfair to Teachers and Students.
Jennifer McBride	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-18	All of this testing is proven stressful for children and completely unnecessary!
Laura Howard	Dover, DE	2015-04-19	It's the right thing to do for all children, but especially elementary school children and those less advantaged students. End high stakes testing and save our public schools!
dorothea ormsby	newark, DE	2015-04-19	I believe in public education, our schools, our teachers and our kids.
Brian Stephan	BEAR, DE	2015-04-19	My children are being deprived of the experience I had in school because they spend so much time testing. I had fun in school. I can honestly say if I were in school now, I would be as miserable as they are. Let the teachers do the assessing, not a piece of paper and a database.
Jodi Gennusa	Bear, DE	2015-04-19	All parents should be able to make the best educational decisions for their children without fear of repercussions from the district, state and government. The demands put on our students and teachers throughout the school year to prepare children for this one test is overwhelming. Teachers should be held accountable in showing student progress throughout the year. However there are better ways to do it. They're are computer programs (games) that students can unknowingly do throughout the year that chart their growth that would be a better measure of their progress. Some teachers are already using them. Give education back to the educators!
Lisa Ann Palko	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	Common Core is unconstitutional.
Tami Fisher	Townsend, DE	2015-04-19	My children are more than a test score and I believe teachers are more than a set of data collected on their students!
Meg Eldred	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	As a parent, I should not have to subject my children to a test that is not only unproven but detrimental to them, just to placate a government that has sold our educational system to the highest bidder.
Annemarie Hobson	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	I believe there is too much time testing, and preparing for tests, having direct negative impact on my children's education. Furthermore, I believe Common Core Math, in its present format, is a unnecessarily complicated and counterintuitive process which does not advance, yet stifles, the learning process.
Joseph Bennett	Middletown, DE	2015-04-19	Common Core is nothing but corporate welfare for PARC, SBAC, Pearson and other companies. It strips districts and states of educational decision making and violates the very concept of federalism.
Laura Nash	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	Entirely too much testing in schools.
Wendy Johnson	New Castle, DE	2015-04-19	High stakes testing is detrimental to all involved, except for those who are gaining from it financially. It is time to take our schools back, as well as forcing the government to allow us to choose what is right for our children.

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Tara Greathouse	Middletown, DE	2015-04-19	We need to get back to traditional education and back to basic fundamentals. We also do not need to be spending millions of dollars on high stakes assessments. This forces funding away and out of the classrooms where it is most critically needed. We sent men to the moon and men and women into space without high stakes federal and state government directive high stakes assessments. Keeping and using district wide assessments, like MAPS in Appoquinimink, will allow room for more funding inside of the classrooms. High stakes assessments do not increase a students success. We need to remove SBAC and DCAS before our public school education system gets worse.
Karen Pierce	Clayton, DE	2015-04-19	It should be my right as a parent to opt my children out as I see fit.
angela passwater	New Castle, DE	2015-04-19	I believe kids should have less testing
Alida Garrison	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	I trust the teachers who say this test is not ready, and think the Governor should as well.
Christy Mannering-Stephan	Bear, DE	2015-04-19	Allowing teachers to teach, trusting their expertise and giving them the time to make sure all their kids understand the content, that is what I support. All the tests are doing is making kids who don't know how to apply knowledge and problem solve. The real world isn't multiple choice and it's often not timed either.
Marilyn Kulkarni	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	I want teachers to be able to return to teaching students to love learning which is the most valuable standard you can teach
Todd Stephan	New Castle, DE	2015-04-19	I am signing because teachers not some test should evaluate how well a student is doing and what he/she needs ?instructionally?.
Nancy Willing	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	Parents have this right and responsibility.
Terri Stephan	new castle, DE	2015-04-19	I want parents to take back their schools allowing their children to learn in a relaxed, yet inspiring setting, and have some fun while doing so !!!!
Jane Cannon	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	Pass HB50!
jamie foskett	new castle, DE	2015-04-19	As a parent of of school age children, I am educated and well informed about SBAC and am strongly opposed to this assessment.
Deborah McCann	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	I support parents' rights, and believe this test non consequential to student learning.
Stacey Henry	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	A test does not define my special needs child and should not reflect his teacher or funding for school.
Steph Hartley	Claymont, DE	2015-04-19	As both a parent and an educator I believe this particular assessment does NOT serve any honest (put the kids first) purpose. I wish I as a teacher could opt out of having to give this assessment!!
Laura Haug	Milford, DE	2015-04-19	Our children go to school to be taught...not to take meaningless tests.
Jill shilling	Bear, DE	2015-04-19	i believe as a parent I have the fundamental right to make choices in my children's education.
Harrie Ellen Minnehan	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	I believe every parent has the right to make decisions about their child's education. The testing frenzy in this country has led us to tests like Smarter Balance, a test which has not been validated to do anything other than probably waste time and money. No stats on the reliability of this test. Just another passing fad on the Delaware educational landscape.
Dorinda Jones	Hartly, DE	2015-04-19	I do not want this in our school system. School is tough enough for my child I don't want any more stress put on him.
Mike joswick	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	common core is an utter joke and should be eliminated completely and thrown out like Markell should.

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KATE HANNA	NEWARK, DE	2015-04-19	Children, teachers, and schools are not a test grade!
Gordon Kurz	Hockessin, DE	2015-04-19	Get common core out of our classrooms. Get the Feds out of state and local education!
John Stroud	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	Common Core is a disaster and fails to educate our kids to prepare them for the future.
Catherine Whelton	wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	some children do not have home computers. less computer time in school due to testing
Rebecca Visalli	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	Why have children take an exam and have them areas over the knowledge that they are going to fail. Many children might not try at all knowing the failure rate is already high. So is this a true and accurate reading of a students abilities and of the staffs teaching skills?? It doesn't sound as if this testing process has potential.
Natalie Ganc	Smyrna, DE	2015-04-19	Contrary to Hillary Clinton calling education a "non-family enterprise," the Supreme Court has traditionally and continuously upheld the principle that parents have the fundamental right to direct the education and upbringing of their children, in line with the 14th amendment. House Bill 50 will solidify what is already our parental right.
Kelly Stevens	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	This test is not valid or reliable and does not give any data to teachers. Just gives number of kids who failed. Waste of instructional time
Keith Markowitz	Smyrna, DE	2015-04-19	This test is an inappropriate measure of my child's development and a pitiful waste a human resources.
Eve Buckley	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	We send two of our three kids to private school b/c those students are not limited by state-mandated curriculum and testing. Their teachers have the freedom to introduce a range of engaging topics and projects, and the children love learning. This opportunity should not be limited to kids whose parents can pay tuition. Every child should be exposed to the joys of engaged learning and creative expression. Every teacher should be ENCOURAGED to promote this, not prevented from doing that.
Dawn Dehel	Lincoln, DE	2015-04-19	My kids have been DSTP'd, DCAS'd, and now SBAC. I have learned nothing from these results, and neither have their teachers. My kids are not guinea pigs for AIR to refine their tests by and make money off of
Samantha Dahms	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	The smarter balanced assessment is ridiculous test that no child should have to endure.
Karen Marsh	Middletown, DE	2015-04-19	please take teachers, students and parents views into co side ration before creating mandated testing. All this testing is taking WAY too much time away from instruction. All the libraries and computer labs are closed to students for at least half of April and all of May because of testing - guess there aren't any research projects being done.!?!? Let the teachers TEACH!! (And not just to a test).
Anne Solan	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	Testing has a place in our schools when it is able to help teachers, parents and students assess student progress and /or weaknesses in a timely & useful fashion - THIS test (SBA/PARCC testing) FAILS in every way , & parents must have the codified right to officially both OPT OUT and demand their students receive appropriate instruction during test prep & test taking classroom time should they OPT to do so
Kay Sass	Dover, DE	2015-04-19	Spend the money IN the classroom - there are legitimate ways implemented to make sure the curriculum mirrors the needs of the students.
Rob Smith	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	None of your business why I chose to sign
Farrah Morelli	Delmar, DE	2015-04-19	I believe parental rights should be recognized.

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Tina votta	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	our children need more time to learn, less time testing!
David Brenton	Townsend, DE	2015-04-19	Our Children are our future
Faith Andrews	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	Teachers rating shouldn't be left up to a bunch of kids. Let teachers teach.
Deborah Miller	Hockessin, DE	2015-04-19	I want my kids to be actively learning...not taking tests that do nothing more than punish schools and teachers.
Linda Lopez	Townsend, DE	2015-04-19	I support parents' rights to decide what is best for their children
Janice Curry-Lambert	Hockessin, DE	2015-04-19	I am signing this petition because I see how hard teachers work to teach their students yet the amount of time they can teach has been shortened due to this test. Additionally, our children are being pushed past their academic limits. The students are stressed and quickly losing their self-esteem
Cassandra Marshall	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	Our kids and our teachers are not defined by regularly changing tests, they are defined by knowledge and the knowledge they help impart. We need children who will know how to run the future, not just take tests in it.
Ellen McConachie	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	This test isn't a fair judge of student or teacher performance.
kathleen perkins	wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	Public education in DE is being deconstructed & reconstituted in such a way that fails children, their families, our communities and our State. What is this goal? Furthering some capitalist agenda? Or, perhaps some strange notion of King-making (legacy) for the politician & DOE leadership? ---A power grab? Is it their goal to break the teaching profession? destroy local districts? End teacher unions? Teacher pensions? Is it to create a generation of children who lack critical thinking skills & analytical skills? Are we working to graduate 'Walmart-economy' employees who won't challenge the status-quo & the 1%-ers? I am really at a loss here. I can not figure out WHAT is going on. This is a blue state that did not support GWBush & NCLB. Whose agenda is this??? and, who is benefitting from all this chaos? All I got is WOW!
Faith McNamara	Frisco, NC	2015-04-19	i am a retired teacher who has seen so much harm caused by the industry of standardized testing. Incidentally, I gained National Board Certification.
David Reyne	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	The system is broken. Teachers aren't teaching... They are peeping students for an exam that has NO bearing on their needs. It is an assessment designed to degrade the educational needs of children... All in the name of "Accountability".
Catherine Stehlik	West Chester, PA	2015-04-19	I teach in Delaware and believe my parents should have this option.
Christina james	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	I am a teacher and the time requirement for the test and all the prior parts are too time consuming and interfere with classroom time. Also, the schedule for the whole school is disrupted for 8 weeks and lack of routine provides chaos. There are not enough computer labs to accommodate the test.
Melanie Sowa	Hockessin, DE	2015-04-19	Education is Mandatory - Assessment is Optional. Parents and Guardians have the power to make the choice.
Lawrence DeHeer	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	Smart Balance Assessment and Common Core are corrosive to the entire system and process of education and parents should have the right to act in the best interests of their children by opting out.
Rebecca Claire Snyder-Hall	Rehoboth Beach, DE	2015-04-19	I strongly oppose high stakes testing because it is preventing our teachers from teaching the whole child. Parents should have the choice to opt their kids out.
Michael Bank	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	Having worked with special needs students for the past 24 years I know how stressful it can be on these and other students to participate in "standardized" testing. Treating all children equally does not mean treating them fairly.

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Gretchen Pikus	Milford, DE	2015-04-19	SBAC has sincere developmental concerns for meeting standards.
Meggan Roberts	Townsend, DE	2015-04-19	The testing causes my daughter who is already struggling with a learning disability so much stress it's unbelievable.. Also she is not allowed any accommodations during testing so she isn't scoring as well as she could which stresses her even more because she thinks she failed.
Yvonne Johnson	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-19	I am signing because I believe that parents have the right to choose whether or not their student should take this assessment.
Sandra strothmann	New Castle, DE	2015-04-19	the testing they have now is doing fine why change what the children are used to. The children should be tested on what they are being taught in school and what they learned it should be the teachers to do what they are there to do TEACH are kids.
Christine Boulden	Newark, DE	2015-04-19	I support a parents right to opt their child out of high stakes testing.
Patricia Marvel	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-20	it should be anyone's right as a parent to opt their child out of any testing They deem inappropriate.
Mary Pieri	Middletown, DE	2015-04-20	My son has a right and I have a responsibility to have him assessed in a valuable and proven system. That is my right as a parent.
Nina Friedlander	Middletown, DE	2015-04-20	This test provides no useful data for parents, students and teachers. They need to be tested on exactly what they are learning during the year.
Steven Welch	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-20	I fully support the parent's right to choose, and agree in general that the present "Smarter Balanced" regimen is neither smarter nor balanced relative to student needs..
Tatiana Guile	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-20	I am signing because I believe in my rights and duties as a parent to provide my children with the best possible educational outcomes. I have opted my children out of the Smarter Balanced because I do not feel it is an effective standardized test and will not provide the quality information it claims to provide.
Nancy Bosler	Elkton, MD	2015-04-20	I'm signing because I don't see the tests as accurate ways to assess the skills of children. I see the tests as a source of revenue for testing companies as the educational system continues to unnecessarily punish teachers for the effects of poverty with no consequences for the students taking the tests.
Nathaniel Schwartz	Newark, DE	2015-04-20	I support parent's choice! As a parent with a child with learning disabilities, parents AND schools should have the choice to Opt Out without any negative ramifications.
bonnie marvin	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-20	Standardized testing needs to go away in the first place. Benchmarks should be the only ones they take. Special needs kids certainly don't need to be taking these tests, they don't accurately show where these kids are educationally.
Mary Schorse	Newark, DE	2015-04-21	Where do I begin? Two main reasons. Teachers need to be allowed to teach, and children need to be allowed to learn. There is no evidence to support any significant contribution of high stakes standardized testing to those goals. Instead., they contribute to students and teachers getting discouraged and demoralized.
kevin walls	Camden, DE	2015-04-21	This is a waste of time that adds useless stress on our children!
Stephen Tanzer	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	Treating kids like lab rats and taking teaching out of the teaching profession is killing public education. Students and parents deserve the right to opt out of this pointless maze leading nowhere.
Chris Meanor	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	In class education is more important than adding yet another intrusive high stakes evaluation to an already overloaded student agenda.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Rheena Steel	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	High-stakes tests are not an accurate assessment of student's learning.
Gena Cawthray	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	I am a 4th grade teacher. When I see how nervous and upset my students get when they hear the word "test" it's ridiculous. We should be feeding their enthusiasm to learn, not testing them so that they worry if they're going to "pass grade" if they don't do well.
Kathleen Prindible	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	The test is too complicated and frustrating for the special needs students that I teach.
thomas meade	Middletown, DE	2015-04-21	Simply placing too much emphasis and time on an unproven testing model. Students are losing instructional time which will affect their academic performance in the future.
Steven Field	Newark, DE	2015-04-21	Smarter Balance tests are mostly being used to make profits for a corporation that is tied to the head of DOE.
Elizabeth Garrett	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	Students go to school to learn- not test!
Diane O'Connor	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	Our students do not benefit in any way from this assessment.
Abigail Cooper	New Castle, DE	2015-04-21	It puts too much pressure on students and teachers. It does not serve an effective educational purpose.
mersina kopatsis	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	I feel parents and students should have the right to opt out of state examinations.
Eva Peterson	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	This is an important choice issue for parents.
Sharon-rose Gargula	Newark, DE	2015-04-21	Students are losing out on their educational experience and joy of learning because everything is focused on testing.
jennifer tuppeny	Middletown, DE	2015-04-21	this test does not teach or tell me anything about my child and it is undo stress on my child and takes away creativity from teaching.
Savage Patricia	Newark, DE	2015-04-21	There is way too much emphasis on testing. Too much stress and too many tests. Taking a lot away from academic learning. Give one or two tests every other year.
Helen Street	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	Testing is out of control! We need to have time for children to be taught.
Jane Keeports	Landenberg, PA	2015-04-21	If my evaluation is based on students' tests who might adversely affect my rating, this would not be fair to me. Also, school districts and charter schools in the state should be on the same level playing field based on a clear and distinct law.
Shannon Smith	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	I'm signing because I am a teacher and I think the test is flawed and that it puts unnecessary stress on our students. We do not teach or test like this regularly either. It seems we are putting our students at a disadvantage.
Claudia Hughes	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	The test is not appropriate for many children with special needs!
Charles Johnson	Dover, DE	2015-04-21	Too much emphasis has been placed upon standardized testing, well beyond any use of the information, which is often not accurate.
brian sarkissian	Smyrna, DE	2015-04-21	I believe the process is weak and has not been well thought out in regards to getting schools ready for the process.
Maureen Arsola	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	All children do not test the same and they are losing valuable time in the classrooms. You cannot measure someone with one test.
Tammy Jeandell	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	Testing is unfair. Some students do not test well even though they are smart children. How can you judge a teacher by how well her students perform with so many outside factors that impact the outcome of how a student will test that day?
Kimberly Snyder	Hockessin, DE	2015-04-21	This test is ridiculous!

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Jermaine Wilson	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	Students have great skills rather than test skills. Some students demonstrate high academic achievement in class activities and projects but tests are challenges. We need to be able to focus on the individual needs of the student an not always an assessment for remembering how to complete tasks.
Colleen Zufelt	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	As a teacher, I see the frustration and anxiety on my students daily during the testing window.
Ann Toner	Rehoboth Beach, DE	2015-04-21	Completely inappropriate for special needs children
Lynda DiJulio	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	I'm signing because parents have the right to choose for their own child.
Danielle Arnold	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-21	I do not want my children "taught to the test" and wasting time on this when they could be receiving education on things that matter.
Raimundo Rocha	Salisbury, MD	2015-04-21	I want to opt out our children out of this assessment.
Shyla Mazzaferro	Delaware City, DE	2015-04-21	Our children should be taught in school, NOT subjected to endless testing!
Erin Fitzpatrick	Newark, DE	2015-04-21	This test is absolutely ridiculous. The passages are outrageous, the context unfamiliar and the questions designed to trick the children. DESIGNED TO TRICK THE CHILDREN. It is as if the test designers want our kids to fail and hang the blame on teachers. Teachers who work hard, teach creatively, attend to their little strugglers, squeezing every minute out of every day.
Alan Hendel	Newark, DE	2015-04-21	I believe we should stop testing for political purposes and let teachers do the testing relative to what is taught. This testing as it is now serves no purpose except to line the testing companies pocketbooks and show the communities that politicians know what is best for students. A true case of the blind leading the blind.
Victoria Cairns	Dover, DE	2015-04-22	I agree with this petition because, as a retired educator and educational advocate, I am all too familiar with the adverse effects of standardized testing on students, teachers and the educational environment in general.
Paula Brown	Dover, DE	2015-04-22	I am signing because these tests are taking up too much valuable instructional time and stressing the students unnecessarily
John Cairns	Dover, DE	2015-04-22	As a former educator and employee of DOE, I know that testing is not the answer to our problems!
Marian Henderson	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-22	I am signing this because I think standardized testing is a poor way to evaluate children and I believe it is forcing teachers to teach to tests instead of the subjects they love to teach. It takes away all the joy and creativity in teachers.
Barbara Farmer	Dover, DE	2015-04-22	Excessive testing is very taxing on our students.
Ken Reuter	Dover, DE	2015-04-22	I believe the Smarter Balanced to test to be poorly implemented, particularly in regards to many of the questions in which formatting errors appear to have been committed as a result of 'cut and paste' procedures. Also, I believe high stakes tests to be detrimental to a student's academic progress and to their desire to learn and achieve their own goals.
Tracy Truban	New Castle, DE	2015-04-22	We have a right to opt our kids out of ridiculous testing.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Anne Putnam	Wilmington, DE	2015-04-22	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am a 6th grade teacher and teach students with and without disabilities and students who are English Language Learners. I work with inclusive classrooms and with students who require small settings for optimal learning. I am responsible for delivering core content to all students and meet individual needs of all students. I rely on appropriate tools to help students meet their learning needs and feel adequately prepared for their future math career. Of the tools I use, I find high stakes testing the least useful in helping students and strongly feel high stakes testing is not an appropriate tool to deliver to students. High stakes testing is also not appropriate to deliver to all students as the test is largely unadaptable to all students. . The test is a long arduous process that takes a long time to administer, which results in losing classroom instruction. In addition to losing classroom instruction, it is unclear as to whether the test appropriately measures what occurs in the classroom as the curriculum is poorly aligned to the state standards. Finally, adequate time is not given to teachers and students to learn and teach all the material covered on high stakes test because the testing of them start early to ensure all students test and meet compliance laws.</p> <p>High stakes testing is not appropriate to deliver to all students as the test is largely unadaptable. Because the test does not adapt to the student's level, then the test does not align to today's pedagogy of meeting individual's needs through differentiated instruction. I teach students who have cognitive impairments. They work hard, enjoy learning and do the best they can. They are able to function better than students with severe cognitive impairments (which eliminates the possibility of an alternative assessment), but that means they consistently struggle with grade level material, forcing them to give up, shut down and have poor self- esteem. Watching them try their hardest on a test that is above their ability is heartbreaking and a waste of 16 days of instruction where they can be learning life skills that will help them become productive members of society. We spend 16 days because we spend 4 days for each subject and we take the test in two rounds, Spring 1 and Spring 2. This does not include the 3 days needed to take the Science and Social Studies DCAS in 7th and 8th grade respectively. This means 7th and 8th graders spend between 3-4 weeks on testing alone, which is almost a month of school. Loss of this much time influences how much content can be covered in one year, and the quality of content delivered.</p> <p>In addition, students who do not have cognitive impairments or a disability also miss out on important academic time. While students are testing, teachers are not allowed to give homework, tests or quizzes in any subject. This particularly impacts teachers in the Social Studies and Science classes. Due to block scheduling, they have split their students across two marking periods; students have one subject ,marking period1 and 3, and the other subject marking period 2 and 4. Since most testing occurs in the 4th marking period, those students are at a disadvantage in terms of practicing key concepts at home and cannot progress through the curriculum at an adequate pace because they cannot take their test on the content presented until testing is over.</p> <p>High stake tests are not an accurate measurement of teacher performance and student learning. I cannot speak about test questions, as I am not allowed to look at the content questions because that is considered a security breach. If I cannot see the content or questions, how can I know then whether I properly prepared students for the test, especially since my curriculum does not meet all the required Common Core standards? Some difficult high stakes tests such as the SAT's have multiple preparatory classes to help students become adjusted to the language and content covered on the tests. Because these tests change frequently, there are few materials available that can prepare students for such questions. In the same point, my students ask me about a particular question, and I cannot help them access the information. Helping students access information and content is an important quality in teaching. The teacher may present information differently and students can answer the questions the way a teacher presents it, but due to a difference in language and presentation they cannot apply what they know on a high stakes test. In addition, the language of the questions is especially frustrating when I receive questions about whether the question is written properly (which I have found at least two errors in the Computer Adaptive Test). Also, despite the Common Core being adopted, which has helped teachers across the nation synchronize their curriculum focus, our curriculum materials have been poorly adapted to teach to these standards. I had to research and develop materials to cover certain standards and provide more practice for my students. Standards that I had to adapt and locate materials to better meet common core standards were specifically integers, graphing points on the coordinate plane, and writing and evaluating expressions. Teachers also cannot adapt their methods of teaching based on student results. Adapting based on student results is a key quality in effective teaching. Especially now that scores take so long to be given to students and teachers, they are considered unimportant information with regards to teaching. While they may help teachers identify at risk students, teachers in the next grade cannot use those scores to go back and remediate students on key skills because they do not know which skills students did not understand.</p> <p>Finally the timing of the test does not allow teachers adequate time to prepare students. Due to a small window of time that students are expected to complete the test, students start round one testing in the middle of March. At that point, there are usually 3 units of material left to cover. Another reason why students have to start testing early is because the test requires computers and as not all schools are equipped with a 1 to 1 ratio of computers to students, laptops must be shared among all students. This results in a schedule of testing that may begin the day after spring break, the day students come back from long weekends, split the testing over a weekend, or start earlier in the school year to avoid poor timing of testing. With the adaptation of the Common Core, the expectation was to delve deeper into the standards and spend more time on fewer standards. High stakes testing goes against this principle as teachers feel they need to cover a year's worth of material by March in order to feel they have prepared their students. This results in covering the content at the surface and less mastery of important concepts. If we do not cover concepts prior to the test, students become upset and angry with themselves and their teachers because they feel that they should have learned the material and feel unprepared. Feeling unprepared is also connected to my previous point that teachers are not allowed to know the questions or content on the test and therefore cannot help students prepare adequately for the test.</p> <p>High stakes testing is not an appropriate measurement of student learning and teacher performance due to systematic flaws outlined above. Formative and summative assessments are given regularly in the classroom and should be used to track student performance, but that is not what high stakes testing measures. There are more appropriate tools and tests available that measure whether a student has mastered concepts appropriate to their level of learning. In addition, appropriate tests and tools take less time to administer (usually one class period), deliver appropriate results in a timely fashion, and allow more flexibility in scheduling (they do not need to be completed in a certain window to meet compliance laws). These assessments also break down into specific skills so the teacher can adjust their teaching to better meet the student needs and intervene when needed. High stakes testing does not meet this requirement. Due to the length of time needed to administer high stake tests, students are not learning, but spending time taking assessments that they may not be adequately prepared for due to rushing through curricula or not covering all the required units. There are more appropriate ways to spend our time and resources as teachers and students. Resources from these tests could be used to help develop accurate assessment tools</p>